Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

## Workshop on the 2018 State & Federal Legislative Priorities

Tuesday October 24, 2017 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Leon County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Leon County Board of County Commissioners

**Notes for Workshop** 

## Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Workshop

October 24, 2017

To:Honorable Chairman and Members of the BoardFrom:Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

**Title:** Workshop on the 2018 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator Nicki Paden, Management Analyst

#### **Statement of Issue:**

This workshop item seeks the Board's approval of recommended state and federal legislative priorities for the 2018 Florida Legislative Session and the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### Fiscal Impact:

This item does not have a fiscal impact. However, it recommends requests for state and federal appropriations as well as substantive policy positions that seek to avoid unfunded mandates and cost shifts to the County.

#### **Staff Recommendations:**

- Option #1: Approve the 2018 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, as amended by the Board.
- Option #2: Adopt the Resolution supporting legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense (Attachment #3) and direct staff to invite Representative Emily Slosberg to the November 14 Board meeting for presentation of the Resolution.

#### **Report and Discussion**

#### **Background:**

Each year, the Board conducts a workshop with the County's legislative staff and contract lobbyists to develop priorities for the upcoming state and federal legislative sessions. This workshop enables the County's legislative team to receive important guidance from the Board regarding priority legislative issues and directs the County's lobbying efforts for the upcoming year at both the state and federal level. In recent years, the Board has directed staff to refine the County's substantive policy priorities only to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) in achieving their respective legislative goals. Consistent with this direction, staff is seeking Board approval of the County's 2018 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, comprised of the state and federal policy and appropriations issues proposed herein.

#### Analysis:

The 2018 Florida Legislative Session will be held from January 9 through March 9, 2018, and the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress will convene on January 3, 2018. Staff recommends several policy and appropriations priorities for the 2018 state and federal legislative sessions, arranged as follows:

- Seven legislative appropriation requests;
- Twelve County projects for potential state and/or federal grant funding;
- Nine state-level legislative policy priorities, including support of the FAC 2018 Legislative Priorities, for the 2018 Florida Legislative Session; and
- Three federal legislative policy priorities, including support of the NACo 2018 Legislative Priorities, for the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> United States Congress.

The Florida Legislature and Congress are expected to devote considerable attention this year to hurricane readiness and disaster recovery issues in the wake of Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The Florida House of Representatives appointed a Select Committee on Hurricane Readiness and Recovery for the 2018 session to specifically address pressing issues related to this topic, and several committees of the Florida Senate have also begun to receive presentations and engage in discussions regarding these issues. 2018 also marks the second and final year of the current leadership term in the Florida Legislature; accordingly, the Legislature is expected to once again seek to pre-empt local governments' home rule authority and restrict their ability to raise local revenue. These were significant issues during the 2017 session, which was the first year of the current leadership term. Additionally, the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research has projected a slim \$52 million surplus for the upcoming state fiscal year; however, that estimate was made prior to Hurricane Irma, and the state has spent over \$140 million to date on a variety of Irma-related recovery efforts. As a result, the Legislature is expected to face a budget deficit heading into the 2018 session, and may seek once again to shift costs to local governments in the form of unfunded mandates and/or further cut state spending to balance the state budget.

In consideration of these factors, the policy and appropriations priorities recommended in this workshop item are organized in order to provide a more targeted approach in pursuing legislative interests during the upcoming state and federal legislative sessions. Given the trend of the Florida Legislature and Governor in recent years to fund relatively few local projects, citing the availability of existing grant programs through the executive branch, and given the state's fiscal situation and its interest in prioritizing hurricane readiness and disaster recovery issues this session, the Legislature is not expected to allocate a considerable amount funding for direct legislative delegation have requested that the County present a concise list of local projects for which to seek legislative funding. Further, delegation members have requested that the County and City partner, to the extent possible, to submit joint funding requests. Accordingly, the list of projects that staff is recommending the County pursue for direct legislative funding reflect those that best align with the anticipated priorities of the Legislature during the 2018 session, as well as one specific joint County-City project, as described in the section below.

In addition to the list of projects for legislative funding, this workshop item also recommends Board direction to pursue grant funding for specific County projects that best align with existing executive branch grant programs. The County has been successful in recent years securing over \$100 million in funding over the next several years through several of these programs. Most notably, the Florida Department of Transportation 5-Year Work Program currently includes approximately \$89 million for right-of-way acquisition and construction of Capital Circle Southwest as well as \$10.6 million for right-of-way funding associated with widening Woodville Highway, as reflected in Attachment #1. Also, during the 2016 Legislative Session, the Legislature adopted a bill requiring \$50 million to be set aside annually for springs restoration projects, and the County has secured over \$9 million from this program to support septic-tosewer conversion projects in Woodville, the Northeast Lake Munson area, Belair/Annawood, and Woodside Heights. To best align the County's top priority projects with their most likely sources of state and federal funding, this item recommends that the Board direct staff to continue the County's successful strategy of seeking grant funding for these projects through regional, state, or federal agency grant programs as applicable.

The Board may wish to add, remove, and/or amend legislative priorities as deemed appropriate for the County's 2018 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Upon Board approval, staff and the County's contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the priority issues approved by the Board. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board designates to receive a special level of attention in the upcoming legislative cycle.

Importantly, in addition to the issues specific to Leon County identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative advocacy each session is focused on issues of statewide importance in conjunction with FAC. FAC will finalize its 2018 legislative program during the 2017-18 Legislative Conference in Sarasota County, which will take place November 15 through November 17, 2017. The statewide issues identified by the FAC membership will assist staff in identifying the most critical issues facing counties during the state legislative session.

It is important for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and by working with our local legislative delegation. As always, staff will keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memoranda, and weekly updates during the state legislative session.

#### PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS 2018 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

(*Complete information on each request is included in Attachment #2*)

Throughout the year, staff works to identify projects most suitable for state and federal appropriation requests to support important County projects. The Board's practice of retaining professional contract lobbying services at both the state and federal levels enhances the County's advocacy efforts for these requests. The County's contract lobbying firms provide a daily presence by advocating for the County's state and federal requests with the County's legislative delegations and other legislative leaders.

In past state legislative sessions, legislative committees have utilized specific forms to request funding for local projects. While it is not yet clear what processes will be in place for requesting funding for local projects during the 2018 state legislative session, staff has prepared the information that will likely be required to support the County's proposed appropriations requests.

The following list reflects a concise, targeted set of County projects that staff feels best align with the anticipated priorities of the Legislature during the 2018 session (for complete information on each, see Attachment #2):

Request:	Amount:	<b>Project Phase:</b>
Leon County-Tallahassee Critical Facilities Backup Generators	\$2 million	Capital/Fixed Assets
Crooked Road Property Acquisition	\$150,000	Property Acquisition
Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship	\$100,000	Program Funding
Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II	\$300,000	Design & Construction
Lake Henrietta Renovation	\$1.5 million	Design & Construction
Fords Arm/Lexington Tributary Restoration	\$4 million	Construction
Fred George Wetland Restoration	\$1 million	Construction

As indicated earlier in this item, members of the County's state legislative delegation have requested that the County partner with the City of Tallahassee to the extent possible to submit joint funding requests for legislative funding. Accordingly, the project listed in the table above titled "Leon County-Tallahassee Critical Facilities Backup Generators" reflects a proposed joint County/City request to install backup generators at County libraries and community centers as well as utility infrastructure owned by the City including wastewater lift stations. A similar project was included in the Legislature's final adopted budget last session, but the project was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

In recent years, the Board has also supported legislative requests from community partner agencies that inure to the benefit of Leon County as a whole. In addition to the proposed Leon County appropriations requests listed above, following is one other anticipated community partner request for which staff recommends County support:

#### Support the City of Tallahassee's Funding Request for Undergrounding Electric Utility Infrastructure

- Issue: The Tallahassee City Commission will be considering its legislative priorities on October 25. The City is expected to pursue legislative funding to install underground electric utility infrastructure along critical circuits, including areas where critical health care facilities are located. If successful, this would enhance the resiliency of the City's power grid and improve the County's overall emergency management and disaster response capabilities during future severe weather events.
- Action: Support the City of Tallahassee's funding request for the installation of underground electric utility infrastructure.

#### ADDITIONAL HIGH-PRIORITY COUNTY PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING:

In recent years, the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott have placed a greater emphasis on grant programs through the executive branch and coordination with state agencies to help fund infrastructure projects. Governor Scott's line-item vetoes have totaled over \$1.1 billion in the past three fiscal years, specifically striking projects that bypassed state agency review or that would not benefit the state as a whole. This year, staff anticipates the Legislature and Governor to maintain this emphasis on funding through grant programs and state agencies. Accordingly, staff is seeking Board direction to continue pursuing grant funding for the County projects listed below. As indicated earlier in this item, Leon County has been successful in recent years securing over \$100 million in upcoming funding through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Five-Year Work Program, the Springs Restoration Matching Grant Program administered by the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) for septic-to-sewer conversion projects, and others. This targeted approach best aligns major County projects with the most likely sources of state funding while allowing for a greater focusing of the County's legislative appropriation requests.

Following is a list of proposed projects recommended for potential grant funding. Each listed project is consistent with the County's FY 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, FY 2018 Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and/or other plans or policy documents, as applicable:

Request:	Amount:	<b>Project Phase:</b>
Centerville Trace Septic-to-Sewer Project	\$1 million	Design
Harbinwood Estates Septic-to-Sewer Project	\$2.5 million	Design & Land Acquisition
Woodville Sewer Project	\$25 million	Construction
Leon South Regional Water System	\$750,000	Design & Construction
Capital Circle Southwest	\$10 million	Construction
Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road)	\$29.7 million	Construction
Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59) Bridge Replacement	\$530,000	Design & Construction
Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan	\$500,000	Design
St. Marks Headwaters Greenway Trails	\$800,000	Construction
J.R. Alford Greenway Trails	\$400,000	Construction
Williams Landing Improvements	\$450,000	Design & Construction
Waterfront Drive Structure Elevation	\$100,000	Flood Mitigation

\*Construction costs for the Woodville Sewer project will be finalized based on final design plans, which are currently in progress.

#### **PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS** 2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Like most legislation, Leon County's policy requests are generally incremental in nature, focusing on issues specific to Leon County that are built upon over the course of several legislative sessions. Additionally, staff annually evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential legislative policy issues. Statewide significant substantive issues range from maintaining the County's home rule authority to the state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce the size and scope of state government. Once again, the state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce the size and scope of state government are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. Additionally, as indicated earlier in this item, the Legislature is also expected to devote considerable attention to hurricane readiness and disaster recovery issues.

It will be important for the County's lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or unfunded mandates. In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works closely with FAC to identify developing issues that affect counties during the legislative session. In many cases, the County joins FAC to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2018 state legislative policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action.

#### **Protection of the State Workforce**

Issue: State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy, and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

For the first time in eight years, funding for an across the board pay raise for over 97,000 state employees was included in the FY 2017-18 state budget. Effective October 1, 2017, most state employees earning less than \$40,000 received a \$1,400 increase and those earning over \$40,000 received a \$1,000 increase. However, state employee pay raises were linked to reforms to the state's health insurance and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). While the FY 2017-18 budget did not increase state employee health insurance premiums, which remain at \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage for most employees, the Legislature revised the state employee health insurance plan to require the Department of Management Services (DMS) to provide four different levels of health-insurance benefits to state employees beginning in 2020. The change provides an incentive for employees to choose coverage that would cost less than the amount of money the state contributes for premiums. The state is currently in the process of developing these future plan options, which could have the effect of shifting some state employees into plans with higher deductibles and/or less coverage. Additionally, the Legislature approved reforms to FRS including a provision requiring that newly hired employees covered by FRS who do not actively choose a retirement plan will be defaulted into the FRS investment plan rather than the pension plan. During the 2018 session, staff will continue to monitor for any similar legislation affecting state employee pay and benefits, and will advocate on behalf of policies that benefit state employees.

Action: Support the protection of the state workforce and oppose any reductions to state employee benefits.

#### Public Safety on College and University Campuses

- Issue: Under current law, it is illegal for a person to carry a weapon onto a college or university campus, regardless of whether that person holds a concealed carry permit. In 2015, the Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting President Thrasher, former President Mangum, and President Murdaugh in their unified opposition to allowing concealed weapons on university and college campuses. Subsequently, the Board has also adopted this issue as one of its top legislative priorities for the past three sessions. Last year, several bills were filed that would ease restrictions on carrying firearms, including bills that would allow concealed carrying on college and university campuses. However, for the third consecutive year, the legislation died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Action: Oppose statutory changes to Section 790.06, F.S. that would allow the concealed carrying of weapons into college or university facilities.

#### **Support State Funding for Hazard Mitigation Initiatives**

- Issue: Following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma, House Speaker Richard Corcoran indicated interest in prioritizing local hurricane response and mitigation efforts during the 2018 Legislative Session. The Speaker appointed a select committee to review the state's recent hurricane efforts to identify immediate steps as well as five to ten year plans to improve Florida's resiliency for future storms. Several developing topics are on the Committee's agenda including undergrounding utilities, review of Florida's building code, and emergency shelters. The Speaker has indicated an interest to shift funding from local general purpose projects to provide additional funding for local hurricane recovery and mitigation projects. Staff will closely monitor and identify opportunities to secure funding for hazard mitigation projects in Leon County.
- Action: Support enhanced state funding to support local hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness initiatives.

#### **Support State Funding for Trail Development**

Issue: In February 2017, staff met with representatives from the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation (FGTF) to discuss the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SunTrail) Network and future opportunities to connect Leon County to the statewide trail network. The SunTrail Network will consist of multiple trails or shared use-paths separated from motor vehicle traffic to provide nonmotorized transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians statewide. In addition to providing citizens and visitors a scenic and safe alternative to highway transportation, trail networks have generated substantial tourism and economic activity for local communities across the nation. FGTF has reported an average 3-1 return on investment in local communities that host trails, especially in communities that have trails that intersect through downtown.

> The Nature Coast Regional Connector Trail is FGTF's top priority trial connection for the Big Bend Region. Once developed, the trail will create a 168mile multi-use corridor connecting downtown Tallahassee to Dunnellon, Florida utilizing existing local improvements including Cascades Park and the St. Marks Trail. Upon completion of the SunTrail Network, Leon County would become a trail "hub" community, connecting to other trails within the network including the Capital City to the Sea Trail and the Great Northwest Coast Regional Connector.

> During the 2015 Session, the Legislature allocated \$25 million to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund the SunTrail Program. The FDOT five-year work program includes feasibility studies, project development, preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of paved, non-motorized trails located within the SunTrail region. For the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, FGTF is requesting counties and other partners to support the allocation of an additional \$25 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for pre-construction activities (such as feasibility studies, design, and engineering) and trail system marketing initiatives.

In 2017, eight counties located along the Nature Coast Regional Connector, including Leon County, pledged to support existing and additional funding of the SunTrail Network and prioritize the implementation of the Nature Coast Regional Connector. The Board adopted a resolution of support for these initiatives at the July 11, 2017 meeting. Leon County and FGTF will continue to encourage each county to include their respective trail segments onto their Metropolitan Planning Organization's or planning entity's project priority list. During the 2018 session, Leon County staff will work with FGTF and fellow counties to engage state legislators and support legislation that protects and enhances funding for the development of the SunTrail Network.

Action: Support legislation that protects and enhances funding for future development of the SunTrail Network including the Nature Coast Regional Connector.

#### Support for Restoration of Gulf Coast Passenger Rail Service

In 1993, Amtrak's Sunset Limited, which operated between Los Angeles, Issue: California and New Orleans, Louisiana, was extended east from New Orleans to Jacksonville, Orlando, and initially to Miami, Florida. This created a new transcontinental Amtrak route and brought passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast Region between New Orleans and Jacksonville, through Leon County. In August 2005, Sunset Limited service east of New Orleans was suspended due to Hurricane Katrina, which caused massive damage to rail infrastructure on the portion of the train's route between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. The service remains suspended today because of the cost and challenges associated with restoring service to this route. Shortly after service was suspended, Leon County began to engage our local legislative delegation, CSX, FDOT, and others to advocate for the restoration of passenger rail service. Since 2008, several efforts have been made by Congress to restore rail service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Sanford, Florida (more detail provided in Amtrak federal policy priority). The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 established a Gulf Coast Working Group to evaluate the restoration of intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region to provide opportunities to expand local tourism and business markets and access to healthcare and educational opportunities.

In July 2017, the working group provided its final report to Congress which included recommendations on possible track improvements, capacity cost assessment, and operational readiness. The report identified securing the necessary funds for both capital improvements and sustained financial support to cover projected operating losses as a key challenge to implementing the restored passenger rail service and provided several federal and state grant funding sources available projects. Staff has discussed this issue at length with representatives from the Gulf Coast Working Group and other stakeholders, who advise that support from the Florida Legislature through a Legislative Resolution would be an important step toward the restoration of passenger rail service.

Action: Support the adoption of a Legislative Resolution on behalf of the State of Florida which supports the Gulf Coast Working Group's final report and its recommendations for the restoration of rail service in the Gulf Coast region.

#### Creation of a Statewide Animal Abuser Registry

Issue: During the July 11, 2017 meeting, the Board voted to draft an ordinance for the creation and use of a County-wide Animal Abuser Registry with the City of Tallahassee. The registry is a resource to law enforcement and animal control officers in tracking offenders, providing notification to the public and community of the presence of these offenders, and facilitating the identification of offenders by entities and individuals offering animals for adoption or purchase. The registry, maintained by the City, is available on the City's website. The registry contains information about each abuser for a period of five years following his or her release from incarceration or, if not incarcerated, from the date of the judgment of conviction.

Staff reviewed animal abuser registries in other states, counties and cities and found that the most widespread reason for animal abuser registries is the correlation between the commission of animal abuse and future violence against persons. Studies have shown that abusive behavior towards animals often extends to humans in the form of domestic violence, child abuse and in some cases, murder. However, staff found that although several states recently introduced legislation to create animal abuser registries, Tennessee is the only state with an active animal abuser registry. During the 2017 session, the Florida Legislature considered legislation to create a statewide animal abuser registry through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement which ultimately failed in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee due to cost concerns. At the July 11, 2017 meeting, the Board also directed staff to include for consideration as part of this workshop the County's support for the creation of a statewide Animal Abuser Registry.

A statewide registry offers several advantages related to the codification of a registry in statute. The State has the authority to ensure judicial oversight of the processes by enforcing the registration of offenders as a part of the sentencing process of criminal convictions and/or imposing additional penalties for failure to comply with registration requirements. The County's jurisdiction and enforcement authority are limited to the issuance of civil citations and other civil remedies; whereas the state has jurisdiction over the criminal offenses that would be included in an abuser registry. In addition, a statewide registry will prevent offenders that reside in a community with a registry from traveling to another community without a registry to obtain possession of a domestic animal.

Action:

Support legislation to create a statewide Animal Abuser Registry.

#### **Texting While Driving**

Issue: At the October 10, 2017 meeting, the Board received a presentation from State Representative Emily Slosberg on the dangers of texting while driving and legislative efforts to make texting while driving a primary offense. Over recent months, Representative Slosberg has reached out to county leaders in all of Florida's 67 counties in an effort to gain support for such legislation in the 2018 session. This change would grant law enforcement the authority to pull a driver over for texting while driving without any other traffic offense, such as speeding, to occur first.

Distracted driving has been an issue deliberated during FAC's Policy and Legislative Conferences in recent years. Representative Slosberg requested that Leon County adopt a resolution in support of legislation banning texting while driving. During the October 10 meeting, the Board directed staff to include this issue in the proposed 2018 legislative priorities for this workshop. A proposed Resolution is included as Attachment #3 to this workshop item, and the Board options staff's recommendation for its adoption.

Action: Support legislation that would change texting while driving to a primary offense.

#### Modification of the Eligibility for Levying the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax to Include Counties that are Home to Preeminent State Research Universities as Designated by the Florida Legislature

Issue: A top priority for the Board during the past two legislative sessions has been to seek the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to authorize counties that are home to the main campus of a Preeminent State Research University to levy the High Tourism Impact Tax in support of these universities in recognition of their economic benefit through tourism. Proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to support operating costs of a convention center contemplated as part of FSU's Arena District Master Plan to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. The County and City Commissions have allocated up to \$20 million of local funds from a voter-approved sales tax referendum in support of the \$400 million project in effort to support the community's shared initiatives and long-term economic goals.

FSU is preparing a project update for presentation to the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board at its December 2017 meeting.

Action: Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax to include counties that are home to Preeminent State Research Universities.

#### Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues

Issue: FAC's mission is to help Florida's counties serve and represent Floridians by preserving county home rule through advocacy, education, and collaboration. Representing all 67 counties before the Florida Legislature, FAC addresses issues that have broad statewide appeal such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or

cost shifts to counties, growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues.

Annually, FAC hosts the Policy Development Conference and Legislative Conference to develop and finalize FAC's legislative policies for the upcoming legislative session. The Policy Development Conference, which took place September 27 through September 28, 2017, highlighted several policy issues facing counties across the state which were debated and discussed to determine the most critical issues facing counties during the upcoming session. FAC's 2017-18 legislative program includes several policy issues important to Florida counties, including:

- Protection of counties' home rule authority, such as implementation of local business guidelines, regulation of vacation rentals, and selection and duties of county officers;
- Avoiding unfunded mandates such as the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Act, reductions in County Health Department Trust Funds, and cost shifts of state Medicaid costs to counties;
- Support of state-local partnerships in community and economic development through state-local partnerships and incentive programs, workforce development programs, and the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund;
- Preserving and enhancing revenue flexibility such as local governments' millage authority and greater flexibility of allowable uses of local discretionary taxes such as Tourist Development Taxes;
- Maintaining growth management and environmental protection by preserving counties' authority to create local zoning regulations, establishing local authority to regulate medical cultivation and processing facilities, and protecting spring restoration funding;
- Opposing restrictions to finance and taxation authority of local governments such as the additional homestead exemption, restrictions on local-option taxes, and caps on millage rates based upon excess fund balances;
- Support funding for human services including housing programs for homeless and special needs individuals, expansion of adult civil citation programs, and funding for mental health and substance abuse services; and
- Support of public safety and security initiatives such as maintaining the current Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs) requirement and preserving counties' ability to fully collect fees for EMS service.

FAC will finalize its 2018 federal and state legislative program during the 2017-18 Legislative Conference in Sarasota County, which will take place November 15 through November 17, 2017.

#### Update on the 2017-18 Florida Constitution Revision Commission

Once every twenty years, Article XI, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution provides for the creation of a 37-member Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) for the purpose of reviewing Florida's Constitution and proposing changes for voter consideration. Prior to the start of the

2017 Legislative session, a 37-member commission was appointed to identify issues, perform research, and possibly recommend changes to the Constitution over the next year and a half. The Governor of Florida appointed 15 members, the House Speaker and Senate President each selected nine members, the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court selected three members, and the Attorney General serves as an automatic member of the 2017-2018 CRC. The Commission's chairman, selected by the Governor, assigned members across 10 committees to consider proposals related to specific subject areas of the Constitution including education, local government, and elections. The CRC will finalize and file any proposed constitutional amendments by May 20, 2018. These amendments will appear on the November 2018 general election ballot and will require approval of 60% of voters for passage.

Throughout the year, the CRC has hosted several public hearings across the state to solicit public input regarding constitutional amendments that it may propose. The 10 subject-area committees will continue to meet for the remainder of the year to consider proposals submitted by commission members and the public. To date, the CRC has released 14 specific proposals that it will consider. At this time, only one of these proposals has significant substantive impact on counties; this proposal seeks to prevent charter counties from changing the nature of the offices of the five county constitutional officers. Variations of this concept have been considered in the Florida Legislature over the past few sessions, but the language in each draft has been slightly different. In general, the proposal provides that a county charter may not abolish any of the offices of the county officers, transfer the duties of those officers to another officer or office, establish the length of the term of office, or establish any manner of selection other than by election by the electors of the county. As always, staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of any future developments related to the CRC.

Also, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has established a CRC Steering Committee to research and draft CRC proposals and amendments and to actively engage with the CRC. The Steering Committee will recommend proposals to the CRC and will recommend FAC positions regarding other proposals before the CRC. Commissioner Desloge has been appointed to the CRC Steering Committee as a past president of FAC, and Commissioner Maddox is also a presidential appointee to the committee. The Steering Committee has adopted a work plan and conducted preliminary meetings in 2016. Now that the CRC has begun to release specific proposals for its consideration, FAC is planning to host another meeting of the Steering Committee at the FAC Legislative Conference in November 2017.

#### PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS 115<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION:

Each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues at the federal level. Most substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through the County's National Association of Counties (NACo) representation.

Squire Patton Boggs, the County's federal contract lobbying firm, has worked closely with staff on select federal policy issues and priorities that have been identified by the Board. Staff coordinates regularly with the County's federal lobbying team by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant opportunities that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, the federal lobbying team assists staff in preparing monthly updates to the Board on federal legislative activities.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2018 federal legislative policy requests for the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action.

#### Amtrak Passenger Rail Restoration

Issue:

As described in the previous section of this workshop item, Congress approved the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, establishing the Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group (GCRSWP) to evaluate the restoration of intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans and Orlando. In 2016, Amtrak and the Southern Rail Commission conducted a tour to examine new ideas for intercity passenger rail by operating an "inspection train" from New Orleans to Jacksonville. In addition, Amtrak has visited each of the suspended service station areas along the Gulf Coast route to examine the existing conditions of the station areas.

Following these tours, the GCRSWP worked to develop a report to determine possible track improvements, capacity cost assessments, and operational readiness. Amtrak provided cost estimate updates for suspended stations in the 2009 Gulf Service Restoration Plan Report which included opportunities to enhance/provide platform safety, clear accessible pathways, platform conditions, platform sheltering, and other "state of good repair" items. Additionally, CSX provided modeling impacts on the main line tracks along the suspended route as a part of a capacity assessment that must be done before passenger service of any kind may be engaged on their rail tracks.

In July 2017, the GCRSWP's final report was presented to Congress. The report identified securing the necessary funds for both capital improvements and sustained financial support to cover projected operating losses as a key challenge to implementing the restored passenger rail service. The final report identifies short-term and long-term phase projects and federal funding opportunities to support restoration efforts including the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program and the Restoration and Enhancement Grants (REG) Program. Staff will continue to work with the GCRSWP, Amtrak, and the SRC to support the final recommendations of the report and funding for restoration efforts.

Action: Support the Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group's Final Report as well as federal funding through programs such as CRISI and REG to restore passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region.

#### **Disaster Recovery Funding**

- Issue: Following the several natural disasters to recently strike across the nation, the federal government has rapidly increased emergency spending to fund disaster recovery efforts. Typically, disaster recovery is funded through the Federal Disaster Relief Fund; however, the increase of natural disasters and their degree of devastation has led the federal government to pursue supplemental funds. In September, Congress authorized \$7.9 billion in total funding to assist recovery effects in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The President has indicated an interest to authorize an additional \$30 billion in additional funding which will include \$12.77 billion for disaster recovery funding. Following the impacts of Hurricane Hermine and Hurricane Irma, staff will closely monitor and identify opportunities to secure federal funding for recovery and mitigation projects in Leon County.
- Action: Support increased federal assistance for state and local disaster recovery and mitigation efforts.

#### National Association of Counties (NACo) Issues

- Issue: The National Association of Counties (NACo) advocates with a collective voice on behalf of America's 3,069 county governments. Its membership includes urban, suburban, and rural counties. NACo's advocacy efforts are guided by a policy platform and single-subject policy resolutions adopted at each annual conference by policy committees and the full membership. Each year, most of the County's substantive federal priorities align with NACo's policy platform. For the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, Leon County has several substantive federal priorities which NACo will be advocating for or against on behalf of all counties across the nation including:
  - Tax Reform and State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction

In recent weeks, the Senate and House released budget resolutions which include major plans for tax reform for the upcoming session. Although each resolution supports comprehensive tax reform, the resolutions differ on how tax reform would be effectuated. Following the passage of both resolutions in their respective chambers, the House and Senate must negotiate and approve a joint resolution prior to consideration of tax reform legislation in Congress.

In early September, President Trump announced a proposed framework to guide tax reform legislation titled "Unified Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code." The plan does not include maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and targets key county priorities as "offsets" for lowering individual and corporate tax rates including the elimination of state and local tax (SALT) deduction, which allows taxpayers to deduct these taxes from their federal tax returns. State and local property, sales, and income taxes are mandatory payments for all taxpayers; therefore, eliminating the deduction for these taxes would result in double taxation, increase marginal tax rates for certain taxpayers, and lower disposable income. In particular, the deduction of property taxes, along with deduction on mortgage interest, provides a strong incentive for homeownership. The sales tax deduction provides similar incentives for encouraging spending, which facilitates economic growth.

During the upcoming session, NACo will be leading advocacy efforts on behalf of counties nationwide in support of maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and the deductibility of state and local taxes in any comprehensive tax reform legislation.

• Health Care Reform

Counties play an integral role in the nation's health care system by investing over \$80 billion annually in funding and providing health services. Historically, most states require counties to provide health care for lowincome, uninsured, or underinsured residents; however the care is often not reimbursed. In 1965, a federal-state-local partnership (Medicaid) was established to provide health insurance coverage to low-income children and their families, seniors and people with disabilities. Recently, The Affordable Care Act granted states the ability to expand Medicaid to also include low-income adults without children. As health care providers for low-income, uninsured, or underinsured residents, counties depend on Medicaid to reduce the amount of uncompensated care that must be provided by county health systems. Recently, there have been several attempts by the President and Congress to restructure the health care system to withdraw the states' option to expand Medicaid and reallocate funding into per-capita allotments or block grants; however, these efforts to date have been unsuccessful. Staff will continue to monitor legislative and budgetary developments related to health care and changes that may adversely impact counties. In addition, staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's efforts to work with the Trump Administration and Congress to ensure that any future changes to the nation's health care system do not simply shift federal and state costs to counties.

#### • FEMA Disaster Deductible Proposal

In 2016, FEMA released a proposal that would require states to satisfy an insurance-like deductible prior to receiving Public Assistance funding from the federal government to repair and rebuild damaged infrastructure after major disasters. The proposal follows 13 disasters that have occurred throughout the nation since 2000 that have cost FEMA more than \$500 million each. If implemented, state deductibles would range from a high of nearly \$53 million to a low \$1 million, with Florida's deductible in the midrange at \$27 million. FEMA's proposal includes opportunities for states to reduce their deductibles by adopting and enforcing activities that support readiness, preparedness, mitigation and resilience.

In January 2017, FEMA released the second iteration of the proposal to solicit feedback. NACo and the U.S. Conference of Mayors issued a joint response opposing the proposal as it would potentially violate current federal law that requires the federal government to provide a minimum of a 75 percent contribution on all public assistance funding provided following a disaster. Additionally, the proposal presents serious concerns for local governments as it does not clarify whether States have the sole authority to determine which projects would receive funding when state deductibles have not been satisfied and does not account for investments made by local governments when offsetting deductibles for state mitigation activities. NACo opposes FEMA's disaster deductible proposal.

• Waters of the U.S.

For the past several years, the Board has prioritized a top federal legislative issue related to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) joint administrative rule entitled, "Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act" (WOTUS). This rule amends the current definition to expand the range of waters (and their conveyances) that are subject to federal jurisdiction. The rule, which became final on August 28, 2015, eliminates the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains. The rule applies regardless of flow or hydrologic connections. While Congress has attempted to repeal or revise the rule, President Obama vetoed these efforts.

On February 28, President Trump released the executive order, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the "Waters of the U.S." Rule." Following the executive order, the EPA and Corps signed a notice initiating the first step of a two-step process to review and rewrite the rule. As step two of the process, the agencies plan to release a revised WOTUS proposed rule this fall. The revised definition is expected to be narrower in scope and limited to those waters that flow most of the year. Staff will continue to monitor the rule revision process and keep the Board apprised of future developments. In addition, staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's advocacy efforts during the WOTUS rulemaking efforts including clarification that excludes local streets, gutters, and other stormwater infrastructure from the definition of "Waters of the U.S." and requiring federal agencies to consult with state and local officials to identify which waters should be federally regulated and which should be left to the states.

• *Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program* Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries; however counties cannot collect property tax on federal land although they are still required to provide essential services for that land. For the past 40 years, the PILT program has provided funding to counties and municipalities to offset lost tax revenue from federal land within their respective boundaries. Congress funded PILT at \$465 million for FY 2017, the largest amount ever allocated to the program. Leon County received approximately \$221,000 from the federal government in PILT funding due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County. NACo supports federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT in the FY 2018 appropriations package and supports a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.

#### • Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions

Under current law, individuals who buy goods online are required to remit sales tax to the state individually; however, that provision is largely unheeded and not enforced. Purchases from these online stores are not subject to sales tax when they are not physically located in the state of Florida. An estimated \$400 million in potential revenue is lost each year the tax goes uncollected. Although the inability to collect an internet sales tax puts local businesses in Florida at a disadvantage to out-of-state online retailers, legislation to implement internet sales tax has been unsuccessful in the State Legislature.

In recent years, congressional legislation has been introduced (the Remote Transactions Parity Act in the House and the Marketplace Fairness Act in the Senate) that would allow states and localities to collect taxes on online sales but has not gained sufficient traction to pass both chambers. Importantly, this legislation would not create a new tax; it would simply allow states and local governments to enforce existing sales tax laws. NACo supports legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between 'brick and mortar' businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.

#### • Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects that are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth, and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of the country. Funds generated from infrastructure bond financing help to build hospitals, water and sewer facilities, public utilities, roads, and mass transit. In the past decade, nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute-care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to mass transit. However, counties continuously face the risk of losing the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds due to deficit reduction efforts over recent years. Although deficit reduction efforts resulted in cuts in aid to local governments from the states and reduced funding in federal programs that benefit counties, counties still face the risk of losing a low-cost, marketdriven means of financing to support local needs due to corporate tax reform. NACo opposes legislation that would eliminate or limit the taxexempt status of municipal bonds to achieve corporate tax reform objectives.

#### **Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings:**

For the past seven years, the County has hosted Community Legislative Dialogue (CLD) Meetings to engage and coordinate with community partners and local organizations in identifying shared interests to monitor throughout each legislative session. Meetings have historically been held prior to the start of the session, in the middle of the session, and immediately following the session. Representatives from several community organizations participate in these meetings, including representatives from the Leon County Legislative Delegation, higher education institutions, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County School Board, Constitutional Officers, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and several others. During staff's presentation of the 2017 Florida Legislative Session Final Report at the June 20, 2017 meeting, the Board directed staff to schedule a single Community Legislative Dialogue Meeting for the 2018 Florida Legislative Session for February 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Options**:

- 1. Approve the 2018 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
- 2. Adopt the Resolution supporting legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense (Attachment #3) and direct staff to invite Representative Emily Slosberg to the November 14 Board meeting for presentation of the Resolution.
- 3. Board direction.

#### **Recommendation:**

Options #1 and #2.

#### Attachments:

- 1. CRTPA Transportation Improvement Program FY 2017/18 2021/22 (excerpt)
- 2. 2018 State and Federal Legislative Appropriations Requests and Related Materials
- 3. Resolution of Support for legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense

#### SR 263 (US 319) C.C. FROM SR 61 CRAWFORDVILLE TO CR 2203 SPRINGHILL RD



Proj	iect #:	2197492	2				
Wor	k Summary:	PRELIM FUTUR	I ENG FOR E CAPACITY	SIS?:	No		
Lea	d Agency:	Manage	d by FDOT	Length:	2.341		
Cou	nty:	Leon Co	ounty	LRTP #:	2040 RMP C Roadway CF		
Phase	Fund Source	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
ROW	DDR	96,292	4,196,516	2,312,194	0	0	6,605,002
ROW	SA	322,157	0	0	0	0	322,157
ROW	SU	494,551	353,484	685,006	0	0	1,533,041
ROW	DS	7,423,400	0	0	0	0	7,423,400
ROW	DIH	100,000	100,000	15,000	0	0	215,000
CST	DIH	0	0	0	0	235,840	235,840
CST	DDR	0	0	0	0	24,778,129	24,778,129
CST	SU	0	0	0	0	3,784,754	3,784,754
Total		8,436,400	4,650,000	3,012,200	0	28,798,723	44,897,323

Prior Cost < 2017/18:	2,822,446
Future Cost > 2021/22:	0
Total Project Cost:	47,719,769
Project Description:	Provides ri

47,719,769

Provides right-of-way and construction funding for Capital Circle from Crawfordville Road to Springhill Road.

#### SR 263 CAPITAL CIR FROM CR 2203 SPRINGHILL RD TO SR 371 ORANGE AVENUE



Proj	ject #:	4157829					
Wor	k Summary:	RIGHT C FUTURE	F WAY - CAPACITY	SIS?:	Yes		
Lea	d Agency:	Managed	by FDOT	Length:	4.126		
Cou	nty:	Leon Cou	unty	LRTP #:	2040 RMP Ro CFP (Chapter		
Phase	Fund Source	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
CST	ACNP	0	0	0	44,106,820	0	44,106,820
Total		0	0	0	44,106,820	0	44,106,820

Prior Cost < 2017/18:	3,643,624
Future Cost > 2021/22:	0
Total Project Cost:	47,750,444
Project Description:	Provides construction funding for Capital Circle, SW.

#### SR 363 WOODVILLE HWY FROM SR 263 (US 319) C.C. TO GAILE AVENUE



Proj	ject #:	4240094					
Wor	k Summary:		OF WAY - CAPACITY	SIS?:	No		
Lea	d Agency:	Manageo	by FDOT	Length:	1.499		
Cou	inty:	Leon Co	unty	LRTP #:	2040 RMP Ro CFP (Chapter		
Phase	Fund Source	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
ROW	SU	555,901	0	0	0	0	555,901
ROW	DDR	3,042,799	739,909	0	0	0	3,782,708
ROW	SA	200,000	0	0	0	0	200,000
ROW	DIH	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000
Total		3,798,700	839,909	0	0	0	4,638,609

Prior Cost < 2017/18:	2,587,507
Future Cost > 2021/22:	0
Total Project Cost:	7,226,116
Project Description:	Provides right-of-way funding associated with widening Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Gaile Avenue).

#### SR 363 WOODVILLE HWY FROM GAILE AVENUE TO SR 363/PAUL RUSSELL RD

a la serie serie series s	Fonda Tennessee St 9 State		
eacola St 366	University Tallahassee	265	E Park Ave
Jackson Bluff Rd	W Gaines St	Apalachee Pkurg	square Mail
Jackson Bluff Rd	Lake	- e	
Roberts Ave	Elberta Park	Capital City Country Club	IN NE
	FloridaA&M University	Capital City Country Club	TEL CHIEF
Innovation Park	Pupperson PondaA&M University AM IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS IS I	E-Magnolia Dr 👷	
Don Veller Seminole Golf Course	Wahnish S Adams	E-Magnolia Dr 2	Hilaman Park Golf
Winder Dundford Dd	373		Course
Munson Slough			E Orange Ave
Swamp	P2 363	Paul Russell Rd	alat (319)
	92 (363) 92 (363)	Zillah St	Stone Rd
Springe	z Ridge Rd	Gaile Ave	
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T.P. Smith Water Treatment		10-	
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Lake Munson			17 P. 100 17
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Proj	ject #:	424009	5				
Wor	k Summary:		I ENG FOR E CAPACITY	SIS?:	No		
Lea	d Agency:	Manage	d by FDOT	Length:	.618		
Cou	inty:	Leon Co	ounty	LRTP #:	2040 RMP Ro CFP (Chapter		
Phase	Fund Source	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
ROW	SU	0	1,779,561	152,214	0	0	1,931,775
ROW	DIH	0	75,000	30,000	0	0	105,000
ROW	DDR	0	3,028,839	0	0	0	3,028,839
ROW	СМ	0	0	407,345	0	0	407,345
ROW	SA	0	0	499,741	0	0	499,741
Total		0	4,883,400	1,089,300	0	0	5,972,700

Prior Cost < 2017/18:	1,510,918
Future Cost > 2021/22:	0
Total Project Cost:	7,483,618
Project Description:	Provides ri

Provides right-of-way funding to Woodville Highway (Gaile Avenue to Paul Russell Road).



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:County AdministrationDivision:Strategic Initiatives			
Contact Person:	Andy Johnson	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5383

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Leon County-Tallahassee Critical Facilities Backup Generators		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Dusquer Category	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
Strategic Plan Alignment:	<ul><li>(Q3) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services.</li><li>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.</li></ul>		
	(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner.		

#### **Project Description:**

This joint Leon County/Tallahassee project requests funding support to install backup generators at critical facilities throughout the community to ensure that they are can be utilized following a disaster. The Tallahassee-Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy identifies a variety of critical facilities throughout the community; this project seeks funding for generators at 12 Leon County and City of Tallahassee branch libraries and community centers.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This project seeks to ensure that these facilities are operable and/or can be utilized in the event of severe winds, flooding, and/or loss of main electrical power. This project will ensure that these facilities, which are located all areas of the community including urbanized areas as well as outlying rural areas, can be used as comfort stations or for other uses as described in the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

#### **Population Served:**

This project will benefit all residents of Leon County, as well as potential evacuees to Leon County from other areas affected by a disaster.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If awarded funding, construction and/or installation of improvements would occur in FY2018 and FY 2019.

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners 2017 Legislative Proposal Page 2

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested:	\$2 million	

	PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)		
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		



### **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2018 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:	Development Support & Environmental Management	Division:	Environmental Management	
Contact Person:	Anna Padilla	Title:	Sr. Environmental Engineer	
Email:	PadillaA@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1300	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Crooked Road Property Acquisition		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Duagnam Catagony	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other: <u>Hazard Mitigation</u>	
	(Q3) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.		
	(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner.		

#### **Project Description:**

This project requests funding support to mitigate future flood damages and potential health and safety concerns. This project proposes to purchase an owner-occupied property located at 4908 Crooked Road, Tallahassee Florida. The parcel currently contains a single-family residential structure (approximately 1,296 square feet), served by an on-site septic system and well, and a detached garage (approximately 492 square feet). Once the property is obtained, the structures will be demolished, the septic system will be property abandoned, and the property will remain in open space in perpetuity.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Frequent flooding is experienced when additional discharges are released out of the nearby upstream dam. During these events the property is inundated with water, usually for periods of three to five days. With the frequent flooding on the property, the residential structure is at risk of flood damages, both inside the structure and to the duct work underneath the structure. In addition, the septic tank is completely submerged and the property is inaccessible due to water over Crooked Road. Through this project, the risk of future flood damage to the structures on the property will be removed and the potential water quality contamination and health risks will be removed through removal of the on-site septic system. This project is a benefit to human health and safety, and the environment.

#### **Population Served:**

The Ochlockonee River has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, identified as an Integrated Wildlife Habitat (formerly known as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and parts of the Ochlockonee River have been designated critical habitat for mussels by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project will benefit property owners in the immediate area and will be of general environmental benefit to the Lower Ochlockonee River habitat.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If funded, property acquisition, structure demolition, and septic system abandonment would occur in FY2019 and FY2020.

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested:	\$150,000	

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:County AdministrationDivision:Strategic Initatives			
Contact Person:	Heather Peeples	Title:	Special Projects Coordinator
Email:	PeeplesH@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5317

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Dusquer Category	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(EC2) - Support programs, policies and initiatives to attract, create, and promote expansion of business, entrepreneurship, and job creation.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(2016-4A) Based upon the projected unmet local market for middle skill jobs, continue to host Leon Works Exposition in collaboration with community and regional partners and launch Leon County's Junior Apprenticeship Program.		

#### **Project Description:**

Working closely with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Leon County identified that the Leon-Gadsden-Wakulla County area will have over 27,000 skilled job openings in a variety of industries in the next six years. Many of these positions will go unfilled simply because the region lacks workers with the needed skills and qualifications. The Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship Program are designed to both raise awareness about careers in the skilled workforce and to provide emerging students with entry-level skills training and work experience prior to entering the private workforce. Through this program, Leon County seeks to raise awareness about skilled careers and provides internship opportunities matching many of the academic programs currently offered by local colleges, which will allow students the ability to gain entry-level skills training on the job prior to entering the private workforce.

#### **Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:**

This appropriation request is to support the Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship Program, an expansion of Leon County's internship offerings in skilled career fields. Beyond simply raising awareness about careers in the skilled workforce, it is imperative that opportunities exist in the community for early-career workers to gain hands-on experience in the workplace. For the past several years Leon County has partnered with Tallahassee Community College and North Florida Community College to establish internships in the County's EMS division for EMS Technology students. Many additional opportunities exist for the County to offer internships in support of local colleges' existing academic programs in skilled career fields such as building construction, computer technology, graphic design, public safety, and other fields that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. This request seeks a partnership with the State of Florida to provide these opportunities for entry-level skills training for students prior to entering the workforce.

#### **Population Served:**

The Junior Apprenticeship program targets local high school students and students currently enrolled in local colleges and technical centers. In addition, through the Leon Works Expo, the program also seeks to raise awareness about skilled careers among high school students and other area residents who may be unemployed, underemployed, or who may be seeking a career change.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested: \$100,000		

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind operational support)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:Public WorksDivision:N/A				
Contact Person:	Tony Park	Title:	Director	
Email:	ParkT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1537	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Des anno Cata anno	Education	⊠ Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(EC1) - Do well-designed public infrastructure which supports business, attracts private investment and has long term economic benefits.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN4) - Reduce our carbon footprint.		
Strategic I fan Anglintent.	(Q1) - Maintain and enhance our parks and recreational offerings and green spaces.		
	(Q6) - Promote livability, health and sense of community by enhancing mobility, encouraging human scale development, and creating public spaces for people.		

#### **Project Description:**

This proposed legislative priority seeks legislative funding to support the design and construction of the Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II. This trail segment will be a twelve foot paved multi-use trail parallel to the Orchard Pond Parkway from the eastern parking area to Meridian Road, adding approximately 1.4 miles to the overall trail. The actual alignment of the trail segment has not yet been established and will require survey, design, permitting and construction.

Prior to the conveyance of the property to Leon County, the previous property owner requested funding during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions to help fund the construction of the trail, and the County requested funding during the 2017 session. However, in all instances the funding was included in the Legislature's approved budgets, but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Staff recommends an appropriation request be made again during the upcoming legislative session for Phase II of the project.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This project will create recreational trails to be utilized as horse, pedestrian and bike trails adjoining the recently completed Orchard Pond Parkway. Phase II is the eastern segment of the trailhead and will connect to the Phase I segment, or the western part of the trail.

#### **Population Served:**

This project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Leon County. The trail will be open for use to the general public.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If funded, design, engineering, permitting, and construction of the trail segment would occur in FY2018 and FY2019.

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners 2017 Legislative Proposal Page 2

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested:	\$300,000	

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)				
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind)	
Source:		Amount:		
Source:	Source: Amount:			



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:Public WorksDivision:Engineering Services				
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.	
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Lake Henrietta Renovation		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Ducanom Cotogonyu	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(EN1) - Protect the quality and supply of our water.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN2) - Conserve and protect environmentally sensitive lands and our natural		
	ecosystems. (Q1) - Maintain and enhance our parks and recreational offerings and green spaces.		

#### **Project Description:**

This project involves the major restoration of the 16 year old Lake Henrietta stormwater facility on Springhill Road. The stormwater facility was constructed with its northern five acres excavated as a sump to capture and concentrate the sediment from the west, central and east drainage ditches and treats runoff before it enters Lake Munson downstream.

An original projection of 8,000 cubic yards of sediment removal was expected at this juncture in the ponds service life. However, during the initial design phase, the actual amount found is approximately 53,000 cubic yards. The amount of sediment captured in this sump far exceeds the estimates, which is believed to be largely due to the delay of planned implementation of restoration projects in the contributing area. Due to the much larger than expected sediment quantity, hydraulic dredging is the best long-term solution. This requires property acquisition for storage and processing of dredge material.

In addition to this project, the Board recently funded sediment sampling at Lake Munson, conducted by the Florida Geologic Survey, to look for potential contamination and to determine potential disposal of contaminated material or recommend alternatives in lake restoration activities. This will be used to develop remediation plans and associated future projects for Lake Munson.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

The project is divided into five phases. Property acquisition and design and permitting of an adjacent spoil handling site have been funded. This projects requests funds to support hydraulic dredging and the design and installation of a trash rack at Lake Henrietta. The removal of sediment and litter from the lake will improve water quality flowing to Lake Munson and ultimately to Wakulla Springs.

#### **Population Served:**

This project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Leon County.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If funded, design, engineering, permitting, and construction of the trail segment would occur in FY2019 and FY2020.

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	\$1,500,000	

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)				
Source:	Source: Leon County Amount: TBD (Sales Tax Extension)			
Source:		Amount:		
Source:	Source: Amount:			



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION					
Department:	Department:Public WorksDivision:Engineering Services				
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.		
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526		

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Fords Arm Restoration		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Ducanom Cotogony	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)		

#### **Project Description:**

This project will provide for the retrofit Timberlane Creek to improve water quality of stormwater into Fords Arm of Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water. Currently, Fords Arm has one of the highest pollutant loads of phosphorus within Lake Jackson. This project was developed under the State of Florida's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program in order to protect Florida's highly threatened surface water bodies. This project includes a new stormwater pond, channel stabilization, and drainage improvements.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

The project will reduce phosphorus loads into Timberlane Creek by a combination of channel stabilization, construction of a stormwater sump and drainage enhancements under Timberlane Road and Meridian Road.

#### **Population Served:**

All residents of Leon County will benefit from this project. Lake Jackson is one of Leon County's most precious natural resources, and is listed as an "Outstanding Florida Water" by the State of Florida. In addition to its use for boating, swimming, and fishing by the residents of Leon County, Lake Jackson generates over \$15 million annually in tourism and associated economic activity (Lake Jackson Management Plan 1997 addendum, adjusted for inflation).

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, permitting, easement acquisition and construction could be complete within three years of project funding.

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners 2017 Legislative Proposal Page 2

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested:	\$3,320,000	

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$2,000,000 (local match - land acquisition)
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$870,000 (in-kind match for design and permitting)
Source:		Amount:	



Attachment #2

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services	
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.	
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST				
Project Title:	Fred George Sink Wetland Restoration			
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services		
Bussien Catagoniu	Education	Transportation		
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Tourism & Economic Development		
	General Government/Operations	Other:		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)			
	(Q1) - Maintain and enhance our recreational offerings associated with parks and greenway system for our families, visitors and residents. (rev. 2013)			

#### **Project Description:**

This request is for one-time construction funds to re-grade the existing topography of the Fred George Wetland and intercept debris at a major inflow point to Fred George Sink, a karst feature located within the Ochlockonee River watershed and the Wakulla Springs basin area. Leon County received a \$377,000 grant from the Florida Communities Trust in 2009 for acquisition of this site.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

By providing enhanced water quality treatment of runoff and debris interception prior to release into sinks, this project will restore wildlife habitat, rehydrate wetlands, and improve discharge into the Floridian aquifer and will directly benefit the Wakulla Springs springshed. The need for this project has been identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's draft Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan.

#### **Population Served:**

All residents of Leon County will benefit from enhanced recreational opportunities and the improved discharge to the Floridan Aquifer. The Fred George Greenway was acquired in 2009 through joint funding from Florida Communities Trust, Blueprint 2000, and County funding.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, permitting, and construction could be complete within two years of project funding.

### Leon County Board of County Commissioners 2017 Legislative Proposal

Page 2

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested:	\$500,000	

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)				
Source:	Amount:			
Source:	Amount:			
Source:	Amount:			

#### **RESOLUTION NO.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE URGING OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE TEXTING WHILE DRIVING A PRIMARY OFFENSE

**WHEREAS**, texting while driving makes the likelihood of a crash 23 times greater than driving while not distracted, according to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, distracted driving is driving while performing another activity that shifts the driver's attention away from driving; and

WHEREAS, texting while driving is a form of distracted driving; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Highway Traffic safety Administration (NHTSA) reported an estimated total of 967,000 crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers in 2014; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2014, approximately 431,000 people were injured in crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers, according to the NHTSA; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2014, 3,179 people were killed in crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers, according to the NHTSA; and

**WHEREAS,** the concern of the American public over distracted driving has grown exponentially, resulting in the first-ever national distracted driving enforcement and advertising campaign in April 2014 by the United States Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2015, the United States Transportation Secretary continued the national campaign by announcing the "U Drive. U Text. U Pay." Campaign for Distracted Driving Awareness month; and

**WHEREAS**, the degree of cognitive distraction associated with mobile phone use is so high that drivers using mobile phones exhibit greater impairment than legally intoxicated drivers, according to a University of Utah study; and

**WHEREAS,** a number of local jurisdictions have made it illegal to use hand-held cellular devices while driving; and

**WHEREAS,** during the 2002 regular session, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2002-179, Laws of Florida (Senate Bill 358), which preempted local governments from regulating the use of electronic communications devices in motor vehicles.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, that Leon County:

- 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.
- 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker and the Chair and Members of the Leon County State Legislative Delegation.
- 3. Advocates for the passage of the legislation set forth in #1 above.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

#### LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:

John E. Dailey, Chairman BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk Of Court LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:

Herbert W. A. Thiele County Attorney